

Telco Deceptions & Net Neutrality: Hiding Greed

I am a 56-year-old housewife married almost 34 years and mother of two daughters. (I also have a degree in Computer Science and worked 9 years as a programmer/analyst before becoming a fulltime mother).

Last year I closely followed the Net Neutrality issue and even attended then Senator Mark Dayton's announcement to support Net Neutrality.

What I saw last year was Telcos using DIRTY tactics to get rid of Net Neutrality in their quest for vast power (my opinion).

They are the ones who started rocking the Internet boat by pursuing and getting their August 2005 FCC ruling.

Then they audaciously started their astroturf campaign saying, "hands off the Internet"—meaning government hands and hoping that ordinary Internet users would assume that the govt was trying to ruin the status quo and would then support the Telco position.

Why did they do that? Because they knew that the truth of their position is to destroy the status quo...and that ordinary people WANT the status quo because it is phenomenally successful!

The truth of their position is to "add financial fat" into the Internet cost equation...profit for them but really a sort of extortion to "the people."

Equally audacious and devious was the DoNotRegulate.org site which appeared to be a regular Internet site that ordinary people put up with regular drawings and Flash movies.

It implied that "net neutrality" was some evil plan devised by Microsoft, Google, Yahoo, etc. to steal money from ordinary folks through government regulation.

The mistaken conclusion they wanted people to draw was that the poor old Telcos will have to raise rates if net neutrality and regulation against them is passed.

TRUTH: DoNotRegulate.org was run by that front group "Hands off The Internet" whose backers were Telcos. So there was an industry using a .org address pretending to be ordinary people...and playing to the natural resistance that most people have to government regulation.

Since few people understand the complex subject of the Internet, such a ruse was easy to construct.

The FCC and Congress must understand this trickery, protect voters, and preserve Net Neutrality!

The Telcos' mission is GREED but they can't say that. So, they flat out lie in order to present their goals as something beneficial to us when the truth is that everyone but them would be screwed royally by this.

Telcos' DoNotRegulate.org astroturf was a lie.

Telcos also lie by implying that today's Internet users don't pay for using Telco "pipes." Wrong.

Content-providers pay and I pay for Internet usage based on bandwidth. Internet businesses pay for their proportionate usage: Google uses exponentially more bandwidth than me and they pay for it. Once data is in the pipes, all bytes are equal (Net Neutrality).

Telcos' desire to change the pricing for using what they call "their pipes" from today's metering to a "tiered" rate structure that would allow them to make exclusive deals with whomever they choose for the fast lane.

Telcos would become "gatekeepers" to the Internet where businesses would essentially have to pay "protection" money for the fast lane. Slow speed on the Internet is the kiss of death. Gatekeeper to the Internet is HUGE power that NO ONE should have.

Would we allow someone to corner property rights to the fresh water supply to a city? No. There are some things one can't buy. Fresh water is one. "Gatekeeper" to our Interstate Highway system isn't for sale. "Gatekeeper" to the Information Super Highway CANNOT be for sale!!

Telcos do need to build more networks because they are running out of capacity. They are using the timing of this need to fool people into accepting changes that give them enormous power. They lie to conceal this.

The incentive for building faster, better pipes exists: there is demand which means more users using more bandwidth generates more revenue for the Telcos. Why don't they simply increase the meter rate to fund this?? The answer is because funding isn't their real concern: they want enormous power and easy profit increases!

The Internet has been a powerful force for innovation because of Net Neutrality. It is a key ingredient to the phenomenal success of the Internet economy.

In the late '80s, Coca-Cola changed a key ingredient in its recipe...a big mistake. An Internet without

Net Neutrality would also be a big mistake because it leads to the extra corporate fat of leeching, protection-money, extortionist tiers. Save the Internet from that major mistake!

The FCC must ensure that broadband providers do not block, interfere with or discriminate against any lawful Internet traffic based on its ownership, source or destination.